

Message Text

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22

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 OMB-01

ACDA-07 /069 W

----- 011762

R 200807Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4045

INFO AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 10705

SONGKHLA 096 SENT ACTION BANGKOK INFO UDORN 190731Z APR 76

BEING REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO:

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOFORN SONGKHLA 096

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS PFOR TH MY

SUBJ: SAN RETALIATES AGAINST MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS

REF: SONGKHLA 09'

1. TALKED TODAY WITH LT. GEN. SAN CHITBATIMA WHO SAID LAST WEEK'S AMBUSH (REFTEL) BY MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS (CPM) WAS EXTREMELY WELL-COORDINATED AFFAIR. BULLETS HIT PEOPLE RIDING ON BOTH SIDES OF SAN IN JEEP AND NARROWLY MISSED HIM. TWO RTA KILLED AND EIGHT WOUNDED IN DAYLIGHT ATTACK WHICH OCCURRED AS SAN AND STAFF RETURNING FROM INSPECTION TRIP IN YALA.

2. SAN CLAIMED HE "SAW CHINESE FINES" AND KNEW ATTACKERS WERE CPM. AFTER RESCUING REMAINDER OF TROOPS, SAN ORDERED HELICOPTER GUNSHIP ATTACK ON TWO KNOWN CPM BASES IN AMBUSH AREA. HE INTENDS HIT SEVERAL MORE BASE CAMPS IN SADAU AREA IN RETALIATION.

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3. SINCE RTA NORMALLY LEAVES CPM ALONG, IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND

WHY CPM CHOSE TO UPSET LIVE-AND-LET-LIVE ATMOSPHERE. WHEN I SUGGESTED SCHISM IN CPM MIGHT BE DRIVING VARIOUS GROUPS TO OUTDO ONE ANOTHER, SAN WAS NONCOMMITAL. WE DISCUSSED POSSIBILITY ATTACKERS DID NOT KNOW HE WAS IN THE JEEP, BUT HE THOUGHT ATTACK TOO WELL-PLANNED. IT IS ALSO KNOWN THAT HE WOULD BE RETURNING TO BARRACKS AT THAT TIME, SO HE SUSPECTS CPM GROUP WAS OUT TO GET HIM.

COMMENT: ALTHOUGH SAI IS VERY ANGRY AND WILL BE STEPPING UP OPERATIONS AGAINST CPM NOW, I DO NOT GET IDEA HE WANTS MUCH IN WAY OF GOM AID. HE CLAIMED GOM HAD ALREADY IDENTIFIED LEADER OF AMBUSH GROUP AND WAS USEFUL FOR INTELLIGENCE, BUT SAN STILL NOT EAGER GET INTO COMBINED OPERATIONS. SEEMS IRONIC THAT WITH ALL THE INSURGENT AND BANDIT GROUPS SAN IS UP AGAINST. THE ONE WHICH CAME THE CLOSEST TO KILLING HIM TURNS OUT TO BE THE ONE HE PAYS LEAST ATTENTION TO. IRONY NOT LIKELY BE LOST ON GOM EITHER.

CASTRODALE
WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARAMILITARY FORCES, COMMUNISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: vogelfj
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BANGKO10705
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760148-0962
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760445/aaaabmbo.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: vogelfj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by vogelfj>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAN RETALIATES AGAINST MALAYSIAN COMMUNISTS
TAGS: PINS, PFOR, TH, MY, (SAN CHITBATIMA)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006